

## **Virginia Cave Board September 13, 2003**

The Virginia Cave Board met in a regular business session on September 13, 2003 in the Blue Ridge Conference Room, Heth Center, Radford University, in Radford, Virginia. Chairman Ms. Barbara L. Moss called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

### **1. Roll Call**

#### **Members Present**

Mr. Bob Barns  
Dr. Kurt Buhlmann  
Dr. David Culver  
Ms. Andrea Futrell  
Dr. John Holsinger  
Ms. Karen M. Kastning  
Ms. Barbara L. Moss  
Ms. Claire Ward

#### **Members Absent**

Mr. Joe Davis  
Mr. Bill Keith  
Department of Historical Resources representative

#### **Non-members Present**

Ms. Patti Barns  
Mr. Matthew Beversdorf  
Mr. Steve Croy (George Washington—Jefferson National Forests)  
Mr. Joey Fagan (Secretary of the Virginia Cave Board)  
Dr. Ernst Kasting  
Mr. Charles Maus  
Mr. Gary Moss  
Ms. Judy Molnar  
Mr. Larry Smith  
Mr. Tom Smith  
Mr. Wil Orndorff

### **2. Introduction and Announcements**

Chairman, Ms. Barbara L. Moss welcomed members of the Virginia Cave Board including new members Claire Ward and Andrea Futrell and guests. All in attendance introduced themselves.

Larry Smith announced that Joe Davis and Bill Keith would not be able to attend the Virginia Cave Board Meeting and both send their regrets.

### 3. Election of Officers

The following officers were nominated by the Virginia Cave Board and approved by unanimous acclamation:

Chairman: Ms. Barbara Moss  
Vice Chairman: Dr. Kurt Buhlmann  
Treasurer: Karen Kastning

Mr. Joey Fagan was appointed to fill the position of Secretary

### 4. Minutes

The Board unanimously accepted the minutes of the May 31, 2003 meeting with the following changes:

- Page 7 – “Judy Molnar” is the correct spelling.
- Ms. Karen Kastning noted several typographical errors which have been corrected.

### 5. Treasurers Report

Treasurer Ms. Karen Kastning submitted the Treasurer’s report to the Board.

### Old Business

### 6. Significant Cave Nominations on Forest Service Lands

Mr. Larry Smith presented an overview and background information about the significant cave nominations on the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests in Virginia.

Mr. Steve Croy, an ecologist with the National Forest Service, reported the Jefferson National Forest is in the process of revising their Land and Resource Management Plan. He explained that for management purposes, caves are considered as rare communities by the Forest Service. Ms. Nancy Ross, a Forest Service Planner, has written a statement referring to the significant and potentially significant caves in chapter 2 of the plan. Mr. Croy reported that a minimum 200-foot buffer from soil-disturbing activities would be maintained around cave entrances and that wider buffers might be applied for other management activities. Cave closure orders can be authorized by the Forest Supervisor. Management practices for caves on the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests were discussed, as were practices for Indiana Bat management and the use of riparian

standards as applied to karst. Wil Orndorff noted the value of conservation site boundaries as a management tool. Steve Croy asked to receive cave conservation sites boundaries that include Forest Service lands.

## 7. Committee Reports

### A. Education Committee

- Members of the Education Committee are:  
Ms. Barbara Moss—Committee Chairman  
Ms. Karen Kastning  
Ms. Judy Molnar  
Ms. Claire Ward  
Ms. Carol Zokaite
- Virginia Cave Week will not be held in 2003.
- Virginia Cave Week will be held in 2004 concurrently with Earth Science Week.
  - The Virginia Living Museum is planning an event for the 2004 Virginia Cave Week.
  - Contacts are planned with show caves in Virginia and with the science coordinators at the various school systems across the state.
  - Wil Orndorff will prepare a poster for the 2004 Cave Week; the poster theme will be “Groundwater Protection.”
  - A report on plans for the 2004 Virginia Cave Week will be made at the winter Virginia Cave Board meeting.

### B. Environmental Response Committee

- Members of the Environmental Response Committee are:  
Dr. John Holsinger—Committee Chairman  
Dr. David Culver  
Mr. Roy Powers  
Mr. Bill Keith  
Mr. Wil Orndorff
- Mr. Wil Orndorff gave some background information about Interstate 81 Cave. He noted that the entrance gate is in poor repair. It was noted that the plan to widen Interstate 81 would impact the cave. Mr. Orndorff noted that Mr. Bill Keith had spoken with Mr. Dennis Sanders of VDOT to discuss possible impacts and steps to take to preserve this significant cave. Chairman Barbara Moss will write a letter to VDOT in Bristol to express concerns about Interstate 81 Cave and to offer the assistance of the Virginia Cave Board in working to protect and preserve this significant cave.
- Mr. Wil Orndorff reported that the situation on the Dorton Property in Russell County had been resolved.

- The Environmental Response Committee will consider significant cave criteria and significant cave nominations in reference to National Forest lands in Virginia.

#### C. Sinkhole Protection Committee

- Members of the Sinkhole Protection Committee are:  
Mr. Bill Keith—Committee Chairman  
Mr. Bob Barns  
Mr. Joey Fagan  
Ms. Andrea Futrell  
Dr. Ernst Kasting  
Ms. Karen Kasting  
Mr. Wil Orndorff
- Mr. Joey Fagan reported on an interagency meeting with VDOT and other state and federal agencies where a proposal to the use of mitigation funds for sinkhole protection projects under the Statewide Stream Compensation Plan was presented. The concept of using sinkhole cleanouts for conservation banking was discussed. The committee is asking members of the Virginia Cave Board to develop a list of potential sinkhole clean-out projects throughout the 27 karst counties in Virginia for possible future work under this program.

## 8. Karst Program Report

Mr. Wil Orndorff reported on the recent activities of the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Division of Natural Heritage Karst Program.

- Progress continues on the development of conservation site boundaries for Virginia's significant caves.
- Biological inventory work in western Virginia and northern Virginia has resulted in significant finds including an element occurrence of a federally listed species in Clarke County, Virginia.
- Karst Program staff has recently attended and presented papers at the EPA sponsored, Drinking Water Protection in Karst Terrain: A Groundwater Conference & Field Seminar at Abingdon, Virginia in May.
- Karst Program staff attended and presented a paper at the 2003 National Speleological Society Convention at Porterville, California in August. Karst Protection Specialist and Virginia Cave Board Secretary, Joey Fagan, was named a Fellow of the National Speleological Society during the convention.
- Karst Program sponsored a display at the 2003 Farm and Family Showcase in September to inform the public about the importance of cave and karst protection and also demonstrate the work done by the Karst Program and the Virginia Cave Board.

## **8. Cave Conservation Site Update**

Mr. Wil Orndorff reported on the ongoing work by the Virginia Karst Program to delineate conservation site boundaries around Virginia's significant caves:

- Work to develop conservation site boundaries around Virginia's significant has been performed under a grant from the Cave Conservancy of the Virginias.
- Fifty conservation sites are defined encompassing 131 of Virginia's significant caves. A dynamic document describing the fifty cave conservation sites will be expanded as additional sites are delineated.

## **9. Karst Education and Project Underground Report**

Mr. Wil Orndorff reported for Ms. Carol Zokaites that there is a large demand for Project Underground Workshops. Ms Zokaites remains active running Project Underground Facilitator Workshops as well as other karst environmental education outreach activities.

## **10. Cave Owners Newsletter**

Ms. Karen Kastning reported that work is progressing on the next issue of the Cave Owners Newsletter, which is hoped to be ready in November.

## **New Business**

### **12. Virginia Cave Board Website**

Mr. Larry Smith reported on the present Virginia Cave Board Website and provided a handout to the Board showing the site's contents. The Education Committee will work to improve and expand the website.

### **13. Wild Caving Trips for Non-cavers**

Mr. Wil Orndorff outlined some of the issues relating to wild caving trips for non-cavers. Access to caves and landowner relations were discussed. The chair formed a Sacrifice Cave Committee with Dr. David Culver serving as chairman.

Members of the Sacrifice Cave Committee are:

- Dr. David Culver—Committee Chairman
- Mr. Bob Barns
- Mr. Matthew Beversdorf
- Dr. Kurt Buhlmann
- Mr. Joey Fagan
- Ms. Judy Molnar

#### **14. Virginia Hydro Atlas Project**

Mr. Wil Orndorff outlined plans by the DCR Division of Natural Heritage Karst Program to compile hydrologic information for karst areas across the state. Mr. Orndorff noted that less than 10% of the karst basins in Virginia are currently defined. The atlas would include data from dye tracing investigations used to delineate the karst basins in Virginia. The data would be presented in four GIS layers showing dye injection sites, dye monitoring sites, dye flow paths, and basin boundaries. The Virginia Karst Program is presently seeking to obtain a scanning spectrofluorophotometer for use in analyzing stream tracer dyes.

#### **15. Other Announcements**

Dr. David Culver announced that the Karst Waters Institute was hosting an Interdisciplinary Workshop on Epikarst on October 1-4, 2003 in Shepherdstown, West Virginia. For more information see the KWI website at: <http://www.karstwaters.org>

Dr. Kurt Buhlmann announced that Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (PARC) have published a new guide on Habitat Management Guidelines, which contains a section on caves and springs. The PARC website may be found at: <http://www.parcplace.org/>

Ms. Karen Kastning reported that the City of Radford, Virginia had published a map of Adams Cave. Ms. Kastning noted that the entrance gate to Adams Cave is in need of replacement.

Ms. Karen Kastning recently attended the Ninth Multidisciplinary Conference on Sinkholes and the Engineering and Environmental Impacts of Karst in Huntsville, Alabama September 6 – 10, 2003. Ms. Kastning presented the paper “Site Characterization of Sinkholes Based on Resolution of Mapping” by Karen M. Kastning and Ernst H. Kastning at the conference.

Ms. Karen Kastning reported that Mr. Bob Hoke is seeking help from members of the Virginia Cave Board to update the list of limited access caves.

#### **16. Public Comment Period**

Ms. Judy Molnar reported that the Virginia Living Museum in Newport News, Virginia is seeking cave photographs for the cave exhibit that is being developed. The museum is still seeking rescued or captive grown organisms for exhibit as well.

Mr. Steve Croy reported that the U.S. Forest Service has gated Keyser Cave in Page County, Virginia.

**17. Times and Places for Future Meetings of the Virginia Cave Board**

- November 22, 2003                      Staunton, Virginia area
- January 31 or February 7, 2003      Charlottesville, Virginia

**Adjournment**

Ms. Karen Kastning moved the meeting to be adjourned. Ms. Claire Ward seconded. Chairman Barbara Moss adjourned the meeting at approximately 4:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted by

Joey Fagan  
Virginia Cave Board Secretary